



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

HAPPY MAY DAY!



If all had been well we would have been celebrating this ancient festival of Spring at John Hampden today. This has become an annual tradition in our school. Every child would have attended, wearing their summer clothes, and our Year 2 parents would have been invited to join us in the celebration. There would have been May-pole dancing, Morris dancing and plenty of other country dances to enjoy too but, sadly, it is not to be this year.

Whilst we are obviously disappointed when things don't turn out the way we had planned, such disappointments test our resilience and we can choose how we respond. At John Hampden our value of perseverance is one which we allude to regularly—it is easy not to start or to give up when the going gets tough, but you are a much stronger learner if you put some effort in and try to keep going. In these difficult times you may well have been inspired by watching the news and seeing numerous examples of resilience and perseverance. The perfect example is Captain (honorary colonel) Tom Moore who has been an inspiration to us all. His mantra 'Tomorrow will be a good day' is one that should resonate loudly with us at this time if we are to keep positive. It is also one which could be useful when reflecting on home learning. I have seen numerous examples of excellent home learning and some beautiful end results and the whole staff join in congratulating you and your children when things go really well and there is something to be very proud of as a result. However, we recognise that it can be hard work to encourage and motivate children when they are away from their peers, their teaching staff and their regular learning environment. Mrs King, our leader for developing 'Growth Mindsets' at the school has put together some information and some useful online resources which may just help if learning at home is proving tricky. This is included on the next page of this newsletter and on the Home Learning tab of the website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

Also on the website is some more learning for pupils in Year 1 and Year 2. These activities are designed to last until what would have been the end of the half term—Friday 22nd May. Early Years and Foundation Stage pupils already have enough learning to keep them going for another week but we will add plenty more for them next Friday, which will see them through until the holiday. For the small number of children who need to attend school at the moment there will be another Premier Sport provision over the half term holiday based at John Hampden, but the school will be closed on Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May—the two Bank Holidays. Please contact me if this causes you difficulty and I will signpost you to the brokerage scheme for cover on these two days.

So, to conclude, the strong message from us is, 'praise the effort' and make sure you let your children know how pleased you are when they show good learning behaviours at home. Learning behaviours are basically some of our school values—perseverance, independence, reflection, respect but good listening is key.

If you praise and reinforce these things you may well find beautiful end products are the result. Our mantra at school is 'effort leads to success'. Remember, if you are struggling we are here to help and you can email or phone us if you need to. Tomorrow will be a good day!

2. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Growth Mindset

During these unusual times of home learning the children are in a very different learning environment. They don't have their usual classroom support network of friends, peers, the teacher and teaching assistant to support them. Whilst learning at home with 1:1 support from a parent can be fantastic, it can also be very challenging for all involved. You may be finding your child more inclined to give up or lack the motivation to persevere. It might be helpful to remind them of our John Hampden School 'Great Learning Adventure'.



At school, we remind the children that it is perfectly normal to find things difficult and that we can take a 'power boost' along the way (asking for help, trying another way, persevering when it is difficult, saying to yourself 'I can't do it yet'). We will all find things challenging along the way but this is an important part of learning and everyone finds things difficult to begin with. We are all on a learning adventure at the moment as we are all learning to cope with a new way of working and living.

It is important to praise the effort involved in achieving a result, not just the end result. Specific praise, rather than 'well done' or 'good boy/girl' is very powerful at boosting the child's confidence.

- 'Wow! You have tried so hard to keep your handwriting neat. Well done'
- 'I can see you have tried very hard to learn those spellings'
- 'That was a tricky piece of maths, but you stuck at it.'
- 'I am really impressed by how you persevered with.....'

There are some very useful video links below that are fantastic in supporting the concept of Growth Mindset.

A series of short animations aimed at supporting the concept of Growth Mindset for young children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zrtHt3bBmQ&safe=active>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoWLgWCcpWo&safe=active>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFKVoCuwl2s&safe=active>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWr2gE5IIPc&safe=active>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXyN0XSTaMg&safe=active>

The Power of Yet- a Sesame Street song that the children are familiar with from assemblies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLeUvZvuvAs&safe=active>

YET!

There are so many things you want to know,
So many ways you want to grow,
There are so many things you want to be,
So many milestones you want to see.

You will get there if you never forget
The superpower of the word YET!

When you first tried to talk, you were hard to understand,
When you first tried to eat, you needed a hand.
When you first tried to walk, you fell and fell,
When you first tried to run, it didn't go well.

But, your baby self knew something we often forget,
The superpower of the word YET!

Somehow you knew that if you kept trying.
Your chances of success would keep multiplying.
The same is true with every risk that you take,
You just have to learn from every mistake.

Where you put the effort the goal will be met,
As long as you remember the superpower of YET!

